## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 based upon portions of the claim language identified by the Examiner. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 17, and 22 are amended to more clearly recite their respective inventions. No new matter has been added.

### Claims 1, 8, and 13

Claims 1, 8 and 13 are rejected as reciting a "router" element. According to the Examiner, "there is no mention of a router anywhere in the disclosure." See, Office Action at page 2. As discussed below, Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion but has opted to clarify the claim language through amendment in the interest of advancing prosecution.

In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Fig. 2 and the discussion beginning at page 11 of the specification. Fig. 2 shows a plurality of pipeline stages (S) arranged to modify the header of an encapsulation data packet. As shown, elements 32, 34 and 38 cooperate to route information from the data pipeline to the modifier. This is described at page 11 as follows "shifter 34, selector 32, and offset register 38 are cooperable for ***routing*** the N bytes of interest from the pipeline to the output of shifter 34." (emphasis added). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that a "router" as recited in the original claim language is fully supported by the specification.

However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, and without changing the claim scope, Applicant has amended each of claims 1, 4, 8, and 13 to recite "selection logic" in place of "router". This is consistent with the specification and drawings. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 in view of these amendments and the preceding remarks.

### Claims 17 and 22

Claim 17 is rejected based upon the step of "insuring...", and claim 22 is rejected for its corresponding "means for insuring..." element. The Examiner indicates that "there is no

Appl. No. 10/662,583
Amdt. dated November 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2007

PATENT

mention of combining parallel data segments or a temporal position anywhere in the disclosure." See, Office Action at page 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement, but has again clarified the claim language through amendment in the interest of advancing prosecution.

 With respect to parallel data segments, Fig. 2 clearly shows that each pipeline stage (S) holds a particular number of bytes and that these bytes are moved through the pipeline along data paths which are W bytes wide. As shown, portions (segments) of the data in the individual pipeline stages are forwarded on to adjacent stages and combined in parallel with data already present in the adjacent stages. For example, at page 10, the specification states "Each time that pipeline stages S2-Sk receive a new segment of W data bytes, the N-1 lower order bytes...of the new segment are also forwarded on data paths 300 to the next downstream stage in the pipeline." See also, page 11. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that combining parallel data segments is fully supported by the specification.

 Regarding temporal positioning, the Examiner is directed to Fig. 1 which shows an encapsulation packet together with a time axis. At page 3, it is explained that encapsulated data packets are received in units of bytes and the bytes represent a sequence beginning with a layer-2 header and continuing with double-words that make up the rest of the packet. Thus, as shown and described, each byte can be identified by a temporal position in the sequence of received bytes. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the specification (including the original claim language) fully supports the limitations directed to combining parallel segments at a temporal position in a sequence.

 To advance prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 17 and 22. The amended claims recite "insuring that said information is available in said sequence of parallel data segments" which is supported in the application as previously discussed. Further support can be found, for example, with reference to the discussion indicating that the data pipeline is arranged so as to contain all bytes of interest. See e.g., page 10 ("By ensuring that all N bytes of interest are contained somewhere within the pipeline stages S1-Sk, and further by forwarding the N-1 lower bytes of stages S2-Sk downstream to their respectively adjacent stages S1-Sk-1, it is ensured that one of the stages S1-Sk includes all N of the bytes of interest."). Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 17-20 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/662,583
Amdt. dated November 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2007

PATENT

Claims 21 and 23

Claims 21 and 23 are rejected based upon their usage of "first information" and "second information." The Examiner indicates that "there is no mention of a first and second information in the disclosure and it is unclear what information the claim is referring to." See, Office Action at page 3. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion.

In relevant part, with added emphasis, claim 21 recites:

> *receiving selectively programmable first information*
> indicative of a location of second information within said
> encapsulated packet;
> based on said first information, *obtaining said*
> *second information from said encapsulated packet;*

Applicant submits that receiving programmable first information indicative of a location of second information within an encapsulated packet is disclosed throughout the application. For example, at page 11, the specification explicitly states "The offset register 38 is used to store selectively programmable offset information (for example a digital code) which indicates precisely where the N bytes of interest are located within the encapsulated packet."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that use of "first" and "second" information is supported by the specification and is clear in its meaning. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 21 and 23 is therefore requested.

<div align="center">

**CONCLUSION**

</div>

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/662,583
Amdt. dated November 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2007

<span style="float:right">PATENT</span>

   If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

          Respectfully submitted,

          Steven A. Raney
          Reg. No. 58,317

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 858-350-6100
Fax: 415-576-0300
SAR:jo
61103890 v1